

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 1 was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barker et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,387,925) in view of Yates (U.S. Pat. No. 6,030,035). Claims 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Barker and Yates, as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Garland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,059,674). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Barker and Yates, as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Kazuno et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,457,777). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Barker and Yates.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2 in view of Barker and Yates. However, there are three very important characteristics which are not disclosed in those two citations. The first characteristic being “the middle layer placed upon said undermost layer and being a cushion, the cushion being elastic in all directions”. The second characteristic being “the uppermost layer being rigid in all directions in its plane”. The third characteristic is “a thickness of the cushion layer increasing in a direction

towards a front edge of the support portion and the elasticity being such that a pressure from the rider's seat bone caused by up and down movement of the rider's legs being taken up in all directions by the cushion layer without the cushion layer losing elasticity".

The only similarity which the invention shows with the cited reference of U.S. Pat. No. 4,387,925 is that the bicycle seat consists of two separate support portions. In order to allow freer movement of the legs of the bicycle rider, the support portions 10 and 11 can rotate a limited amount about horizontal mounting member 15 (column 3, lines 6 to 14). Thus, it is very clearly stated in the cited reference that it is the rotating movement of the two saddle portions which allows a freer movement of the legs of the bicycle rider.

Claim 1 states that "each of the support portions is attached with adjustable inclination". Thus, the two saddle portions are fixed during pedalling.

The Examiner further says that the two saddle portions have a cushion which is thicker at the front edge. There is nothing in the specification about a cushion and the thickness of the cushion. Concerning the form of the seat portions and the softness or flexibility, see column 3, lines 50 to 57. Thus, the only similarity between what is disclosed in the cited reference to Barker and the present invention is that the bicycle seat consists of two separated support portions.

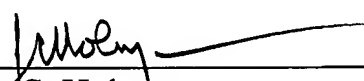
The Examiner further cited U.S. Pat. No. 6,030,035 to be combined with U.S. Pat. No. 4,387,925. However, U.S. Pat. No. 6,030,035 does not disclose two support portions but only one of very old and well-known form. The applicant agrees that this saddle includes several layers. However, the layer 22 and “shoe” 20 are not formed with an increasing thickness at the front edge but rather a diminishing thickness at the front edge irrespective of if one considers edges 104 according to Fig. 2 or the projecting part 32 being the front edge. Instead, the elastic parts are thinner at these edges. Thus, U.S. Pat. No. 6,030,035 does not disclose anything about a middle layer being a cushion, which has specific qualities so that the pressure from the rider’s seat bone is taken up in all directions without the cushion layer losing its elasticity.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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